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THE LIBRARIES OF SCANDINAVIA*

We may distinguish four important types of libraries in the Scandinavian countries, 1, the royal libraries, 2, the university libraries, 3, the public libraries and 4, the libraries of societies and individuals.

The royal libraries are found only in Sweden and Denmark, but the other types are found in all the countries of Scandinavia. The royal and university libraries are old institutions in Denmark and Sweden, while the public libraries are of recent origin in all cases, and the university-national library of Norway is but a century old.

In Sweden the royal library was founded only about a hundred years after the invention of printing, or about the middle of the 16th century. However it was totally destroyed a little later, but was revived and grew to prominence in the eighteenth century. The Danish royal library was founded about two centuries after the invention of printing and met with less vicissitudes than its sister library in Sweden.

The royal libraries of Scandinavia were evidently founded for the same reason that museums were founded, to preserve treasures. There was little idea of service, except perhaps to a few members of the royal family and the nobility. These storehouses of books still exist in Copenhagen and Stockholm, but they are finding a work which was not dreamed of by their founders and wholly outside their original intention. They are now extending their influence to all parts of their respective countries and have become in reality national libraries. It is likely that these libraries, more than any of the other classes, will in the future supply the scarce, the costly and the precious to the citizens of these countries.

The universities in Denmark and Sweden were founded from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries; and, while these universities had no libraries in the early years, there were some small collections of books. The university libraries were, from the beginning of their establishment, aids in university instruction and were used exclusively by the professors and students. This education, we must remember, was as yet only for a chosen few, and the service of the book collections depended upon the service which the educated classes rendered. The university libraries must continue to be largely collections

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for the service of the institutions of which they form a part. These libraries are now however loaning books to scholars in all parts of the country when such loans are asked for.

The public libraries in all these countries have developed during the last century, and they have not yet come into their own. Before we can understand these public libraries we must consider them as part of the present system of public education. As an adjunct to this system, they are necessarily subsequent in time.

The movement for popular education has been contemporary with the movement for popular government in the Scandinavian countries, and the two movements have reacted upon each other. With the desire and right of self-government, came also the demand to know; and the book was the natural messenger of truth. The demand for books, which were too costly to be duplicated in every home, produced the public library.

A distinction between Scandinavian and American public libraries is worthy of notice. Scandinavian public libraries are, with some exceptions, loan collections and in general have no reading rooms. The difference is evidenced by the names in vogue. Most public libraries are called "Bogsamlinger" (book collections). The larger cities however use the word "Bibliotek". These larger cities also have reading rooms and reference collections, based to some extent upon American models.

DENMARK

The Royal Library in Copenhagen was founded by King Frederick III. in 1665. Since 1781 it has received two copies of all books and papers printed in Denmark. The library has at present about 750,000 volumes, and receives annually about 101,000 crowns for maintenance and 60,000 crowns for books and binding. During the year 1912-13, 25,631 volumes were loaned outside the building and 146,000 were used in the reading room. Modern fiction and poetry in the Danish language are not circulated, being considered a collection for permanent preservation; nor are foreign novels of the last twenty years circulated. The national literature is kept in a separate collection.

Each collection in the library has two catalogs, an alphabetic, or author catalog, and a systematic, or subject catalog. The alphabetic catalogs are on slips, and the systematic in large folio volumes. The classification, based originally on the system of the Göttingen university library, is by subjects such as mathematics, geology, chemistry, etc., indicated on the cards by abbreviations. Numbers are not used in this scheme to designate classes.

The library is equipped with a modern reference and reading room with convenient access to reference books.

The University of Copenhagen was founded in 1482, but it is not likely that there was any library worthy of the name in the beginning. The university, which was founded upon the model of the University

of Köln, met with disaster in the Reformation, and its activities ceased altogether. In 1539 it was reestablished as a protestant institution and modeled upon the University of Wittenberg.

The university seems to have had a fairly regular development, and the library must have grown to some proportion, when the institution was destroyed by fire in 1728. It was reestablished again in 1732 and received its final reorganization in 1788.

In 1748 Christian IV. founded the library which has come down to the present day as the university library. With it were then incorporated the Classen library (a merchants library) and the Arne Magnusson collection.

The Arne Magnusson collection is an interesting adjunct to the library. Arne Magnusson lived during the years 1663-1730. He was born in Iceland, but migrated to Denmark, and became professor of philosophy and northern antiquities at the University of Copenhagen. During the years 1702-1712 he gathered the first part of the collection of Icelandic manuscripts which made up the classical literature of Iceland. In 1728 two-thirds of the collection was destroyed by the fire at the University of Copenhagen. Arne Magnusson bequeathed the rest of the collection, together with his entire fortune, to the university library.

During the years 1888-1894 Dr. Kr. Kålund published a catalog of the collection, together with a biography of Arne Magnusson.

The University of Copenhagen library shares with the Royal Library the honor of being a depository of all books published in Denmark. The library has at present about 350,000 bound volumes, 150,000 dissertations and 65,000 manuscripts. It received annually 26,000 crowns for books and 43,000 crowns for maintenance, besides 4,000 crowns for the Arne Magnusson collection.

The administration and routine of the University Library is very much like that of the Royal Library.

Popular education developed very rapidly in Denmark during the 19th century, the popular movements and the public demand leading the way for government activity. One of the forceful agents in the extension of knowledge was "Udvalget for Folkeoplysningens Fremme", organized in 1866, under whose patronage many books were published and in many cases distributed free or at small cost to libraries. Various book collections were started by societies, and diocese libraries were opened for public service.

In 1888 Copenhagen recognized her duty to the public by opening a series of public libraries, "Folkebiblioteker". These were mostly collections of fiction and were used at first only by a small minority of the population, and only by the well-to-do. The example of Copenhagen was followed by other cities, such as Valby, and Fredriksberg, and the movement has gradually extended to all parts of the kingdom. Libraries were also started on a small scale in public schools for the use of pupils.

In 1899 "Statens Komite til Understøttelse af Folkebogsamlinger" was organized to succeed an earlier committee and with the purpose of giving counsel and help and of distributing subventions. Since that time the state has regularly appropriated money for libraries. In 1904-05, 336 libraries were subsidized in sums up to 200 crowns. Not all of these libraries were public, as several society libraries were assisted. The budget for 1912-13 called for 35,800 crowns for public libraries and 13,800 crowns for public school libraries. The public libraries are required to double the amount contributed by the state, which additional amount is raised by taxation in the towns; and it is frequently the case that the towns contribute a much larger amount than the state subvention.

In these libraries there are usually no trained librarians, no reading rooms and no reference rooms. The expense for maintenance is very small. The libraries are open for the loan of books a limited number of hours a day, in many cases from seven to nine P. M., and often not more than two or three days a week.

In 1902 Denmark established the state library in Aarhus. In it was incorporated the diocese library, and duplicates were sent from the royal library in Copenhagen. The library was also made a depository for one copy of all books printed in Denmark, so that its future as a library is insured. Books are loaned from this library to any one in Denmark, even as far as the Faroe Islands. The educational value of the library is inestimable.

It may not be out of place here to mention that Iceland also has libraries of no mean influence on the island. The most important of there is the National Library, "Landsbókasafn," which contains at present about 73,000 volumes. Its annual income, appropriated by the state, is nearly 16,000 crowns. The library is open to the public. A university was established in Reykjavik in 1912, and its library will doubtless in time rise to a place of prominence.

SWEDEN

The Royal and the University libraries are the most important in Sweden. The public libraries have not yet attained to such a development as in Denmark. Most libraries open to the public have been established by private individuals or they belong to some society. The great example of a public library in Sweden is the city library of Gothenburg, but this did not come into existence until 1891, and the example has not been extensively followed by other cities. On the other hand, the national and the university libraries are performing many of the functions of public libraries and are reaching out to the remotest districts. The four great libraries (the Royal at Stockholm, the University Libraries of Upsala and Lund and the City Library of Gothenburg) are well supported and officially recognized, while the small libraries, such as there are, with the exception of the grammar school libraries, have no standing in the educational system of the

country. But they are growing in favor, and their future is unquestionably bright. In some communities the parish libraries are of considerable importance.

In Stockholm much of this good work is done by society libraries. Mention may be made of "Vetenskapsakademiens Bibliotek" of 100,000 volumes, organized in 1739. Another one of great importance is the "Arbetsbiblioteket".

The Royal Library was first organized in Stockholm by Gustaf Vasa, during the period 1523 to 1526, and was largely formed by the material of confiscated monastic libraries. In 1620 the library was given entire to the University of Upsala by Gustavus Adolphus. It was reestablished by his daughter Christina, largely out of libraries conquered in the thirty years' war. The most valuable part of this collection was taken away in 1654 when the queen abdicated. It is now in Rome in the Vatican and is known as the "Bibliotheca Reginae." The remainder, and what was added during the next few years, was destroyed by fire when the royal castle burned in 1697.

In 1707 the present Royal Library had its beginning. It was then reestablished, and its growth was insured by a decree making it a depository of all books published in Sweden. This favor was also granted to the universities of Upsala and Lund. The right however had attached to the Royal Library since 1661. A reorganization of the library followed a decree of 1877, and the final reorganization dates down as late as 1909.

Besides books and papers received from the press of Sweden it has purchased extensively in fields not covered by the other libraries of Stockholm, and it has received many valuable donations. One of its notable acquisitions was the "Kongliga Antiquitetsarkivet" which was merged with it in 1786.

The Royal Library has at present about 315,000 volumes and 1,000,000 pamphlets. It receives annually for books and binding about 55,000 crowns, for maintenance about 77,000 crowns, and for miscellaneous purposes about 16,600 crowns.

In its early days the library naturally served but a small number of people. But since its last reorganization it has been to all intents and purposes a public library, and its horizon is constantly enlarging. In 1912 its circulation outside the building was over 15,000 and the books loaned in the reading room over 93,000.

The first foundation of the University of Upsala was laid in 1477. Its beginning however was very small and it was not much active during the 16th century. It is not likely that there was any library worthy of the name during this period. The university was reestablished in 1593 and from that time on its growth has been continuous. The library was really established in 1620 when Gustavus Adolphus gave the royal library to the university. Monastic collections were also added. Since 1834 it has had a separate state appropriation, beginning at 3,150 crowns. Its present income is 65,000 crowns for maintenance

and 58,000 crowns for books. The library contains 350,000 volumes, besides a large collection of manuscripts and pamphlets.

The University of Lund was organized in 1666 and began work in 1668. A library was organized from the diocese library at Lund and this was augmented by donations. Like the University Library at Upsala, the library of the University of Lund is a depository of Swedish publications, so that the national section is in itself a considerable library. The library contains upward of 200,000 volumes and has an annual income of about 65,000 crowns.

The City Library of Gothenburg was organized in 1891; and, besides being a public library, it is also the college library of "Göteborgs Högskola" which was organized the same year. Several book collections were incorporated in it, the most notable being the library of "Kungl. Vetenskaps- och Vitterhets-Samhället". It has also received large donations. In 1900 it moved into its own building. The library is practically open to all and is the most modern of the large Swedish libraries. It already contains over 100,000 volumes and is growing rapidly.

These large Swedish libraries have a similar system of caring for their books and loaning them. The Swedish-printed material is kept in a collection by itself; then comes the large bulk of the foreign books, the pamphlets, and several smaller collections. Within each collection the books are grouped by subjects, and within each group the books are alphabetically arranged. In the cataloging of books, letters and numbers are used. There is no dictionary catalog, but, instead, an author catalog and a separate subject catalog. The catalogs differ but are generally some modification of the card and ledger systems. Swedish fiction is not loaned except for reference, as it is the intention of these libraries to preserve the national literature for future use. Each of these libraries has reference and reading rooms. The stacks have no lights and are consequently open only during the day-light hours. The reading rooms however have lights and are open in the evening.

Since 1886 the Royal Library has published annually an "Accessions-Katalog", listing the books in the libraries of Stockholm, Upsala, Lund and Gothenburg. About forty libraries in the four cities are included in the list. By the help of this catalog books may be readily placed, and interlibrary loans have been greatly augmented by it. Books are loaned all over the country; and, since the franking privilege covers library books, there is no expense in connection with the loans.

NORWAY

Norway does not have a royal library in the sense that Sweden and Denmark have. Instead, the University Library serves the double purpose of a university library and a national library. The library is also young in years, as compared to the royal libraries of Denmark and Sweden, and its history is very different.

"Det Kongelige Norske Fredriks Universitet" was founded in 1811, when Norway was still subject to Denmark. It was founded, however, at the earnest solicitation of the Norwegian government representatives and Norwegian learned bodies. By a royal decree King Fredrik VI established the university in September 1811. The royal resolution also contained a provision for books which were to be the foundation of the new library. The royal gift included (1) the Colbjørnsen collection of 5,000 or 6,000 volumes, given to the king in 1810 by the heirs of J. E. Colbjørnsen, a Norwegian lawyer in the king's court. This collection contained mostly jurisprudence, philology and belles-lettres. (2) Duplicates from the Royal Library in Copenhagen, perhaps about 59,000 volumes. (3) About 2,000 volumes of a purchase of the private collection of D. C. A. von Rumohr of the University of Kiel. Thus the library was insured a good foundation.

After its removal to Norwegian soil, the library was again favored by a number of gifts. During the years 1811 and 1812 several lots of books were purchased at auction in Copenhagen and were left there awaiting the opening of work in the new institution. However neither the royal gifts nor the purchases could be shipped from Copenhagen in time, and work began in Christiania without them. Then came the rupture between the two countries in 1814, and further delay was inevitable.

After more or less diplomatic effort, the books were shipped in 1815. The university did not have room for them at the time, and they were kept in the Akershus fortifications in the summer and a little later in the arsenal. In the fall of 1816 they were moved into a special building "Haxthausens Gaard", and they remained there until the winter 1850-51.

When the books were placed in their new location in 1816, they were arranged by subjects in rather large groups and alphabetical in each group. A class catalog was begun in 1822 in loose-leaf books, and a distinct author catalog in 1825. The work of cataloging was slow, as it could be done only in the summer when the building was warm. But the catalog was finished in 1828 and filed 63 volumes. This catalog was used until in the 70's.

As early as 1815 a law was passed by the Storting requiring all printers and publishers in Norway to deliver one copy of all printed matter to the university. This privilege continued intermittently for a time but disappeared entirely in 1839.

In 1824 an annual report of the library was begun. The total of books in the library of that year was given as 90,000. Since 1838 a list of annual accessions ("Tilvækstfortegnelse") has been issued, and the "Aarbog" since 1883. This latter gives the Norwegian accessions in a separate list, so that, for the period it covers, the series is a complete Norwegian bibliography.

The institution began to take on the aspects of a national library early. Librarian Sverdrup called attention to its national service in

1826. The Collegium did the same in 1829, and again in 1832. The library has grown into it, however, and it is now in every way a national library. Since 1883, by a law passed in that year, the library has been a depository of all publications issued in Norway, and its national collection is now large and of growing importance. The library is at the same time an up-to-date university library, serving that institution most efficiently. The collection which now totals over 500,000 volumes has just recently been placed in a new fire-proof building. The library's income is about 50,000 crowns for books and 36,000 crowns for maintenance.

The "Deichmanske Bibliotek" in Christiania is the city library and was founded in 1780. From its position of a small library of private endowment, it has grown to be a modern municipal library, supported by the city and giving excellent service to its citizens. It has several branches besides the central collection. It has even made the attempt of sustaining branches in the public parks, so that people during their leisure hours may have ready access to good literature. The library contains over 100,000 volumes and has an annual income of 60,000 crowns. Its annual loans total 600,000 volumes, which means that, on an average, each book in the library circulates six times during the year.

"Bergens Offentlige Bibliotek" was founded in 1872 and was formally opened to the public in 1874. It has some 90,000 volumes and has an annual circulation of over 148,000 volumes a year. In this library the Dewey classification is used, and the administration is very much on the American plan. The library in Bergen grew out of the efforts of certain societies to maintain loan collections. It was firmly established in 1872 when the city accepted from the "Forening for populære forelæsninger" the 12,000 volumes of the private library left by the deceased Paul Botten-Hansen, librarian of the University of Christiania.

Public libraries as a part of public education grew up in various localities during the latter part of the last century, often under the stimulus of societies and public spirited individuals. The government took a hand early, however, and has materially assisted in the work. Since 1876 there has always been a provision in the national budget for the support of public libraries. In 1909 the annual grant had reached \$8,000, with not more than 200 crowns going to any one library.

In 1909 there were 800 public libraries in Norway. Besides these there are travelling libraries consisting of boxes of from 30 to 100 volumes. Boxes are being circulated among workmen on the state roads, others to fishermen on the coast of the north and to small municipalities that have no libraries of their own. For these travelling libraries there must be a request of ten adult residents and a payment of 48 cents a month. The collections must be kept for a period of four to six months.

As early as 1841 the Storthing voted \$2000 for the establishment of libraries in schools. There are now about 3000 children's libraries in the elementary schools, and the subvention for these was in 1909 about \$5000.

The national department has a very exemplary system of handling the book supply for the public libraries of the country. A catalog has been published of a selection of books on fiction, history, geography, economics, hygiene, etc., to which a supplement is added each year, which serves as a guide to the small libraries in the purchase of books. State grants can only be spent for books listed in this catalog. Orders for books are made out in duplicate by the purchasing library, one of the copies going to the bookseller and the other to the education department of the government. The dealer, upon receipt of the order, sends the books to the bindery to be prepared for the library. This bindery does all the work for the public libraries of the country, binding all books in a uniform cloth binding, even putting in a card pocket. For this work the bindery charges a uniform price of 40 öre (11 cents), regardless of size.

Before the books are ready at the bindery, the education department sends in the catalog cards. These are placed in the books; the books are wrapped in the bindery, and they are forwarded through the mails free as official matter.

The books listed in the printed catalog and supplements are all classified by a central commission of the education department, and the classification numbers are printed in the lists. Catalog cards for these books are always kept on hand in the education department. The numbers are printed on these cards, so that they are ready for filing. The department makes a charge of three öre each for these cards.

The libraries in this manner receive the books ready for the shelves and the cards ready for the catalog. All they have to pay, besides the publisher's price for the unbound books, is about 11 cents for binding and less than one cent each for the catalog cards.

Moreover the slugs used in printing the catalog are kept on file in the office of the education department, so that finding lists may be printed therefrom for public libraries. The cost of such lists is consequently very small.

It is the intention of the department that the printed catalog shall eventually include all worthy books for which there is a demand by the Norwegian public libraries. The aid which the department gives in the handling and preparation and cataloging of the books is of inestimable value to the libraries. In their turn the public libraries make annual reports to the education department.

The scattered population, far from the centers of civilization, await the growth and extension of the system, as they await likewise the growth and extension of education and civilization.

JACOB HODNEFIELD.

Radcliffe, Iowa.